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(c) what steps have since been taken to facilitate the safe passage of pilgrims to the other shore ;

(d) whether the District Board, Tanjore, prepared plans and estimates for putting up a bridge across the river in question ;

(e) if the answer is in the affirmative, what was the estimated cost ;

(f) what difficulties, if any, have stood in the way of this work being undertaken ; and

(g) whether the Government are moving in the matter ?

4.—(a) Yes.

(b) In September 1913. Not less than 16 lives were lost.

(c) The accident was due to the overcrowding of a boat. Steps have since been taken by the President of the Tanjore District Board to prevent such overcrowding.

(d) & (e) Yes. The estimated cost of a girder bridge as sanctioned by the Government in 1921 was Rs. 2,33,634.

(f) Want of money.

(g) Yes. The question of financing the scheme is under consideration.

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—“ With reference to the answer to clause (f), may I ask the hon. Minister whether this want of money refers to the estimated cost or whether some money is available even at present ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ I am authorized to answer this question. It is not merely the cost. The matter has been enquired into and it is doubtful whether the work itself is necessary.”

Nominations, Kistna District Board.

* 1306 Q.—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that representations were received by the Government that the President of the old Kistna District Board, i.e., Zamindar of Mirzapuram, was mismanaging the affairs of the Board ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Zamindar of Mirzapuram interviewed the hon. the Chief Minister and His Excellency in connexion with his efforts to become the President of the Kistna District Board ;

(c) whether it is a fact that 27 members were nominated to the new Kistna District Board by Government in May at the time of the bifurcation of the old Kistna District Board and 5 more became members ex officio ;

(d) whether it is a fact that Dr. D. S. Ramachandra Rao, M.A., M.D., was unanimously elected as the President of the Kistna District Board only in the last week of June ;

(e) what was the number of members fixed for the new Kistna District Board by the Government Order of May last ordering bifurcation ;

(f) what is the present strength of the West Godavari District Board ;

(g) whether it is a fact that 18 more nominations were made to the Kistna District Board in September ;

(h) whether the President, Kistna District Board, i.e., Doctor Ramachandra Rao, was consulted with regard to these 18 more nominations and with regard to the personnel of these 18 nominations ;

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(i) whether the Collector of Kistna district was consulted with regard to the personnel of these 18 nominations;

(j) if not, who supplied these 18 names to the hon. the Chief Minister;

(k) whether it is a fact that a dead-lock has been created in the administration of the Kistna District Board on account of these 18 nominations;

(l) whether it is a fact that these 18 nominations were made with a view to create a dead-lock, to dissolve the Board, and make fresh nominations in favour of the Zamindar of Mirzapuram to instal him as the President again;

(m) whether it is a fact that Doctor Rao's term of office was also cut down to one year at about the same time when these 18 nominations were made;

(n) what were the reasons that prompted the hon. the Chief Minister to take this action; and

(o) whether the Government intend to make the remaining three nominations also to the Kistna District Board?

A.—(a) A pamphlet was received in which several allegations were made against the Zamindar of Mirzapuram as President, District Board, Kistna. No other representation on the subject was received.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. One of the ex officio members was already a member of the District Board.

(d) He was elected on 21st June 1927.

(e) In G.O.^a No. 1182, L. & M., dated 29th March 1927, the Government stated that the new Kistna District Board would be formed with the minimum strength of 24 members. No Government Order was issued in May 1927 on the subject.

(f) The present strength of the West Godavari District Board is 31 including 4 ex officio members and the President.

(g) Yes.

(h) & (i) No.

(j) The persons themselves.

(k) The Government have no information.

(l) No.

(m) & (n) The Government were advised that Dr. D. S. Ramachandra Rao's term of office as President would be one year as in the case of the members of the board.

(o) The question of appointing more members is under consideration.

Rao Bahadur O. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" With regard to clause (c), may I know whether the Collector of the district was consulted before nominating the 27 members ? "

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Notice, Sir."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the outgoing President of the district board was consulted ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" No, Sir."

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Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know if all the 27 members have approached the Minister personally or a Member of this Council Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao approached the Minister ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I have no recollection of this matter as it happened so long ago."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" Was there any occasion to publish a list of corrections to the list of these 27 names ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I believe the hon. Member is as well aware of it as I am."

Construction of a bridge over the Keesara river, Kistna district.

* 1307 Q.—MR. A. KALESWARA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct a bridge over the Keesara river, Kistna district ; and

(b) if so, in what stage it is ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Preliminary estimates for Rs. 6.8 lakhs have been approved by the Chief Engineer. The question of the provision of funds is under consideration in connexion with the Budget for 1928-29.

Municipal Councils

Nomination of minority communities to Mangalore Municipal Council.

* 1308 Q.—MR. C. GOPALA MENON : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether a member belonging to a community which is already represented by two elected members in the Municipal Council, Mangalore, has been recently nominated to the Municipal Council ;

(b) whether the person nominated had already served on the Municipal Council as a nominated member for two terms ;

(c) whether there is a rule to the effect that no person should be nominated for more than one term except for special reasons and that in no case should a person be nominated for more than two terms ; and

(d) whether there are minority communities such as the Billavas who have no representation at all on the Municipal Council ?

A.—(a) The hon. Member apparently refers to the appointment of M.R.Ry. Rao Sahib B. Mahabala Hegde. If so, there is only one other member of his community on the council.

(b) Yes.

(c) There is no rule. Instructions have been issued to Collectors that when it is proposed to re-appoint persons who have already served on a council for six years, they should state the special circumstances which render continuance in office desirable.

(d) According to the latest list Billavas are not at present represented on the council.